

REMARKS

Claims 1-46, 152, 155, and 156 were presented for examination. All of the claims have been rejected in view of U.S. 6,187,981. The Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 5, 24, and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the all of the limitations of claim 4. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 17 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 41. Claim 41 has been canceled. Claims 47-156 have been canceled.

The Applicants assert that the amendments made to the claims are in accordance with the Examiner's statements and that the claims which are left are allowable. An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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